

Draft Environmental Assessment

Ackley Lake Campground Addition



July 17, 2019



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Draft Environmental Assessment CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of proposed state action:** Montana State Parks in collaboration with the Ackley Lake Club Friends Group proposes the addition of 8 new picnic tables and fire rings to the campground located at Ackley Lake State Park
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** Montana state statute 23-1-102 authorizes the department to make a study to determine the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific, and recreational resources of the state. The department may by purchase, lease, agreement, or acceptance of donations acquire for the state any areas, sites, or objects that in its opinion should be held, improved, and maintained as state parks, state recreational areas, state monuments, or state historical sites.

Furthermore, state statute 23-1-110 and Administrative Rule 12.2.433 guides public involvement and comment for the improvements at state parks and fishing access sites, which this document provides.

3. **Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency) N/A**
4. **Anticipated Schedule:**
Estimated Construction Commencement Date: August 2019
Estimated Completion Date: August 2019
Current Status of Project Design (100 % complete):
5. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township – included map):**
Section 22 T14N R14E



Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>		
Industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
(existing shop area)		Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/	<u>1</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
Woodlands/Recreation		Forestry	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian	<u>0</u>	Rangeland	<u>0</u>
Areas		Other	<u>0</u>

8. Permits, Funding & Overlapping Jurisdiction.

(a) Permits: permits will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permits</u>
Judith Basin County	Subdivision permit waived

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Ackley Lake Club	\$6400.00

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
MT Dept. of Natural Resource and Conservation	Landowner

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action: This proposed project will add additional capacity (8 new picnic tables and fire rings) to the campground at Ackley Lake State Park. The current campground has an insufficient number of designated sites to accommodate campers during peak season. This is a collaborative project between MSP and the Ackley Lake Club to enhance amenities at the Park. The Park's current budget does not allow for any additional expenses above and beyond routine maintenance needs.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives:

Alternative A: No Action A no action alternative would maintain the same level of campsites at Ackley Lake. Campers will still utilize overflow camping areas without picnic tables and fire rings when the designated sites are full.

Alternative B: Proposed Action The proposed action would accomplish several goals. The addition of 8 new sites would increase the level of satisfaction of visitors at Ackley Lake State Park. It would increase revenue potential in the future. It would decrease fire danger with the use of fire rings. It would give the Ackley Lake Club an opportunity to use funds they have raised for specific park enhancements.

11. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Montana State Parks maintains a Memorandum of Agreement with The Ackley Lake Club Friends Group that allows for collaborative projects to enhance amenities at Ackley Lake State Park.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture				X		
2. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
3. Water quality, quantity and distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
4. Existing water right or reservation				X		
5. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality				X		
6. Unique, endangered, or fragile vegetative species				X		
6. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
7. Unique, endangered, or fragile wildlife or fisheries species				X		
8. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
9. Changes to abundance or movement of species				X		

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Noise and/or electrical effects				X		
2. Land use				X		
3. Risk and/or health hazards				X		
4. Community impact						
5. Public services/taxes/utilities				X		
6. Potential revenue and/or project maintenance costs			X*			
7. Aesthetics and recreation			X**			
8. Cultural and historic resources				X		
9. Evaluation of significance				X		
10. Generate public controversy				X		

* The addition of 8 new picnic tables and fire rings will increase revenue from non-resident camping and resident camping fees when they are in place.

** The preferred alternative will provide improved recreational opportunities for visitors.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

There are no anticipated impacts from the proposed project other than very minor ground disturbance to level picnic tables and install fire rings. Ackley Lake State Park receives significant support from the local community and the Club. This is an opportunity for Parks to work with a partner to accomplish goals that would not be achievable without their support.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public involvement:

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on this current EA, the proposed action and alternatives:

- Two public notices in each of these papers:
- One statewide press release
- Public notice on the Montana State Parks web page: stateparks.mt.gov

Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to the neighboring landowners and interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having limited impacts, many of which can be mitigated.

2. Duration of comment period:

The public comment period will extend for (30) thirty days following the publication of the second legal notice in area newspapers. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., Monday, August 19, 2019 and can be mailed to the address below:

Ackley Lake Addition EA
c/o John Taillie
4600 Giant Springs Rd.
Great Falls, MT 59405

PART V. EA PREPARATION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

No

2. Person(s) responsible for preparing the EA: John Taillie

3. List of agencies or offices consulted during preparation of the EA: MT. FWP

**** Add appendices as necessary**